

Do You Know?

England imported nearly twice as much *cheese* in 1944 as in 1938.

The light gray metal *beryllium* is hard enough to scratch glass.

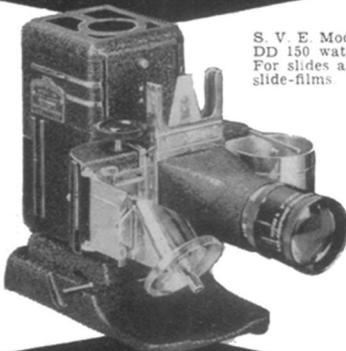
New *phosphorus* compounds have been developed which are of exceptional value in the making of plastics.

A *gorilla* in an English zoo, fed potatoes instead of bananas during the war, did so well that it is doubtful if he will ever get bananas again.

The United States normally consumes about 75,000 *tons* of tin a year, or approximately 45% of the total world output; domestic production is less than 170 tons annually.

Tea-tablets may replace the familiar dried tea leaves; tea can now be reduced to tablets which are cheaper to process and transport than tea in bulk and which make an equally satisfactory beverage as the loose tea.

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problems, from the conservationist's point of view. Native American holly should never be purchased at all. It is practically always collected by wasteful and destructive methods, and usually by persons who do not own the woods where it grows or take the trouble to get the owner's permission. In wide zones around some of our Eastern cities this beautiful small tree has been all but wiped out, and a long closed season is

needed to give it a chance to recover.

Where English holly is offered, it is a better buy even though it costs more. It is raised by regular growers, who are honestly entitled to their pay. Moreover, English holly makes a handsomer decoration than the native variety; its leaves are a glossier green and its berries a brighter red.

Science News Letter, December 15, 1945

MEDICINE

"Only Pneumonia"

➤ "YOU won't have to come out, he only has pneumonia," the patient's doctor, a general practitioner, telephoned the consultant he had previously asked to see the sick man he was sending to the hospital.

The consultant in this case was Dr. Roger I. Lee, of Boston, the new president of the American Medical Association. Dr. Lee quoted the conversation at the recent meeting of the Association's house of delegates to illustrate the advances and changes in medicine.

With X-rays to aid in diagnosis and easy-to-give sulfa drugs and penicillin instead of complicated serum treatment, pneumonia is no longer a killer and has become a disease which the general practitioner can treat without aid from special consultants.

This and other advances in medicine are changing the picture of what constitutes adequate medical care, Dr. Lee pointed out.

They must, he believes, be considered as well as the number of doctors and hospitals per 1,000 population in defining adequate medical care with a view to making it available to everyone.

Plasma and whole blood not so long ago were given generally only in well equipped hospitals by physicians. Yesterday they were given on battlefields and landing beaches by hospital corpsmen.

Penicillin makes it easy for the general practitioner to treat syphilis and gonorrhea, whereas formerly he was "a little overwhelmed and dizzy," Dr. Lee believes, by syphilis treatment which required injecting arsenicals into the patient's vein.

Treatment of tuberculosis, on the other hand, "no longer consists in rest, fresh air, milk, eggs and a desire to live" but, Dr. Lee stated, demands the services of specialists in chest surgery, thus removing it from the scope of the general practitioner.

Progress in obstetrics has reached the point where having a baby "ranks with catastrophic illness or an operation as a major inroad on the family budget," Dr. Lee pointed out. He believes that anesthesia, prompt surgical repairs, nursing and all the things that make it necessary to have a baby in the hospital and increase the cost of childbirth are a part of adequate medical care.

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Painting *water tanks* with white or aluminum paint helps keep the water cooler in summer weather.

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